

Talking about Transgender Issues

Messaging in Action on Health Care for Transgender Young People

Gov. Mike DeWine (R-OH): “Were I to sign House Bill 68 or were House Bill 68 to become law, Ohio would be saying that the State—that the government—knows better what is medically best for a child than the two people who love that child the most—the parents.”

Gov. Andy Beshear (D-KY): “Senate Bill 150 allows too much government interference in personal healthcare issues and rips away the freedom of parents to make medical decisions for their children. My faith teaches me that all children are children of God and Senate Bill 150 will endanger the children of Kentucky.”

Rep. Adam Smith (D-CA): “Blanketly denying health care to people who clearly need it, just because of a biased notion against transgender people, is wrong. The inclusion of this harmful provision puts the lives of children at risk and may force thousands of service members to make the choice of continuing their military service or leaving to ensure their child can get the health care they need.”

Gov. Matt Meyer (D-DE): “In Delaware, we cherish privacy, dignity and the right to make personal medical decisions. Everyone deserves the freedom to access healthcare rooted in science and compassion.”

Former Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA): “As a parent, my heart goes out to the parents who are just trying to do right by their kids and don’t want to see their kids at the center of a political back and forth, or a political punching bag.”

Former Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ): “I don’t think that the government should ever be stepping into the place of the parents in helping to move their children through a process where those children are confused or concerned about their gender. The parents are the people who are best positioned to make these judgments. What I’d like to make sure each state does is require that parents be involved in these decisions. Folks who are under the age of 18 should have parental support and guidance and love as they make all of the key decisions of their life, and this should not be one that’s excluded by the

government in any way.”

Messaging in Action on Sports Participation

Rep. Sarah McBride (D-DE): “I think the sports conversation is a good one, because I think there’s a big difference between banning trans young people from extracurricular programs consistent with their gender identity and recognizing that there’s room for nuance in this conversation.”

Former Sec. Pete Buttigieg: “Your approach starts with compassion—compassion for transgender people, compassion for families, especially young people who are going through this, and also empathy for people who are not sure what all of this means for them...I think that chess is different from weightlifting, and weightlifting is different from volleyball, and, you know, middle school is different from the Olympics. So that's exactly why I think that we shouldn't be grandstanding on this as politicians. We should be empowering communities and organizations and schools to make the right decisions.”

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV): “I support fair play and safety and do not support transgender athletes competing in girls’ and women’s sports when it compromises those principles. I believe local schools, student athletes, coaches, and parents are much better equipped to implement fair, strong policies on this issue than politicians in Congress. This blanket legislation would allow anyone to subject girls to invasive physical exams just because of the way they look. That is incredible government overreach and is putting young women at increased risk for abuse and harassment – something I’ve spent my career fighting against.”

Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ): “As a parent of a daughter, I think it’s legitimate that parents are worried about the safety of their daughters, and I think it’s legitimate for us to be worried also about fair competition. And I think the parents of these trans children also are worried legitimately about the health and wellness of their kids.”

Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV): “I opposed this extreme bill because it is government overreach at its finest, it exposes girls and women to genital exams, and it leads to attacks based solely on personal appearance. Genital exams make female athletes a ripe target for sexual predators—already a very real threat...Sports taught me resilience, hard work, camaraderie, and teamwork. We should be working to ensure girls and women

have safe, fair, and expanded opportunities to participate in sports. But this bill will make all female athletes less safe.”